

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6612

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLSO, AS
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK'S RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S
SEPTEMBER 6 LETTER ON THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 220667

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK'S
REPLY TO THE SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER 6 LETTER ON THE LAW OF THE
SEA CONFERENCE. THE ORIGINAL IS BEING POUCHED TO THE
DEPARTMENT:

QUOTE CANBERRA, A.C.T. 13 SEPTEMBER 1976

QUOTE MY DEAR HENRY,

QUOTE THANK YOU FOR YOUR MOST RECENT LETTER OF 6 SEPTEMBER
IN WHICH YOU INFORM ME OF YOUR EFFORTS TO FACILITATE NEGO-
TIATIONS AT THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA
CONFERENCE.

QUOTE THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN EQUALLY ANXIOUS
THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS SHOULD BE MADE AT THE CURRENT SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE, AND WE HAVE THEREFORE WARMLY WELCOMED
THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND GENEROUS INITIATIVES WHICH YOU HAVE
MADE, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO COMMITTEE I QUESTIONS.
WE CERTAINLY HOPE THEY WILL HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT OF
BREAKING THE PRESENT IMPASSE.

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QUOTE WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTIONS OF THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE, AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, I WOULD LIKE TO RE-AFFIRM MY GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH REMAIN OUTSTANDING, AND TO REASSURE YOU THAT THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ACTIVELY WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THESE AND OTHER ISSUES.

QUOTE I THINK THAT WE MUST NEVERTHELESS FACE THE FACT THAT DESPITE OUR JOINT EFFORTS, THE PRESENT SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE WILL NOT ACCOMPLISH AS MUCH AS WE HAD HOPED. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN NEGOTIATING MOMENTUM IN THE PERIOD AFTER THE SESSION ENDS, AND WE SHALL BE COUNTING ON THE UNITED STATES TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE. MY DELEGATION WILL CERTAINLY BE CONSULTING WITH THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION ON THIS MATTER BEFORE THE PRESENT SESSION CONCLUDES.

QUOTE YOURS SINCERELY,

(SIGNED)

QUOTE ANDREW PEACOCK END QUOTE.

HARGROVE

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